



THE URBAN DISTRICT OF TOWYN

ANNUAL
HEALTH REPORT

for
1960



E.F.W. RICHARDS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health

S. TAYLOR, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.,
Public Health Inspector

THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF TOWYN

ANNUAL HEALTH REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 1960

To the Chairman and Members of the Towyn Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman, Miss Enid Richards and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Health Report for the year ending 31st December, 1960.

It was estimated by the Registrar General that there had been a fall in the population of forty.

Live births were six fewer than in the previous year, and infantile mortality increased to 3 (none in 1959) but there were no still births (2 in 1959).

Deaths were one more than in 1959. The number of cancer deaths was one fewer, one being of the stomach and none of lung cancer. There was one death from Tuberculosis of the lungs. Diseases of the heart and circulation accounted for the bulk of the causes of the death.

Two new cases of Tuberculosis were notified during the year, and only three cases of scarlet fever and one of pneumonia were notified. The scarlet fever cases were much milder than the type which used to prevail in former years.

No cases of food poisoning occurred.

I wish to thank Mr. S. Taylor for his keenness and co-operation during the year.

I am,
Your obedient Servant,

EVAN RICHARDS

District Medical Officer of Health

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of District	22,959 acres
Rateable Value	£47,264
Population (Registrar General's figures)	4,320
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	187
Number of inhabited houses (According to the Rate Books) at end of year	1,160

Comparability Factors

Births	1.27
Deaths	0.91

Vital Statistics

Nett Births (Live and Still)	57
Births (Live)	57
Births (Still)	Nil

<u>Live Birth Rate per 1,000 Population</u>	13.19
1959 figure	13.99

Live Births

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Total	42	15
Legitimate	41	13
Illegitimate	1	2

Illegitimate Birth Rate (Percentage of Total Live Births) = 5.27

Deaths

Total Number - 53		
	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Rate per 1000 population	12.27	27
1959 figures	11.92	26

Deaths of Infants under One Year

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Total - 3	2	1
Legitimate	2	-
Illegitimate	-	2

Infant Mortality (Rate per 1000 Live Births)	52.74
1959 figures	Nil

Deaths of Legitimate Infants: Mortality (per 1,000 live births)	35.09
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Death of Illegitimate Infants: Mortality (per 1,000 live births)	70.18
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<u>Death of Infants Under 4 Weeks</u>	<u>Total</u> - 2												
	<table border="0"> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>Male</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>Female</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Legitimate</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Illegitimate</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> </tr> </table>		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	Total	1	1	Legitimate	1	-	Illegitimate	-	1
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>											
Total	1	1											
Legitimate	1	-											
Illegitimate	-	1											

<u>Death of Infants Under 1 Week</u>	<u>Total</u> - 1												
	<table border="0"> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>Male</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>Female</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Legitimate</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Illegitimate</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> </tr> </table>		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	Total	-	1	Legitimate	-	-	Illegitimate	-	1
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>											
Total	-	1											
Legitimate	-	-											
Illegitimate	-	1											

<u>Illegitimate Live Births (per 1,000 population)</u>	0.69
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Maternal Deaths (including abortion)	Nil
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Maternal Mortality (Rate per 1,000 live and still births (Death connected with childbirth and pregnancy 1959 figure)	Nil
	Nil

Deaths from Cancer

Total	3
Rate per 1,000 population	0.69
1959 figures	0.91

Deaths from Tuberculosis

Total	1
Rate per 1,000 population	0.23
1959 figures	Nil

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

1. Public Health Officers of the Authority

One Medical Officer of Health
One Public Health Inspector

2. Laboratory Facilities

Bacteriological examination by the Public Health
Laboratory, Aberystwyth.

Chemical analysis (Water) performed by Public Analyst, Chester.

3. Ambulance Facilities

One Ambulance stationed at Towyn.

4. Infant Welfare Clinics

Held at Church Hall, Aberdovey every 3rd Tuesday at 2.0 p.m.
Held at the Church House, Towyn, Tuesdays fortnightly at 2.0 p.m.

5. Ante Natal Clinics

Held at 2.0 p.m. on the last Wednesday in the month at Towyn and District Hospital.

6. Orthopaedic Clinic

Dolgellau Hospital every 2nd and 4th Thursday in each month.
Machynlleth Hospital every 2nd and 4th Friday in each month.

7. Tuberculosis Clinic

Machynlleth Chest Hospital weekly at 10.30 a.m. and 1.30 p.m. on Wednesday.

8. Diphtheria Immunisation

Babies and young children are immunised in the Primary Schools by arrangements of the County Medical Officer of Health.

9. Hospitals

One fully equipped Hospital at Towyn.

10. Infectious Diseases

Total number of Infectious Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) notified during the year = 4.

Scarlet Fever	3
Bacillary Dysentery	-
Whooping Cough	-
Measles	-
Infantile Paralysis	-
Food Poisoning	-
Pneumonia	1

Tuberculosis

New Cases

Pulmonary Total - 2

Non-Pulmonary Total - Nil

Tuberculosis Deaths

Pulmonary Total - 1
Non-Pulmonary Total - Nil

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality during 1960 in age groups - Nil

CAUSES OF DEATH - 1960

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Tuberculosis Pulmonary	-	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-
Cancer Stomach	1	-
" Lungs	-	-
" Breast	-	1
" Other sites	2	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system	1	10
Coronary diseases, angina	5	2
Hypertension with heart disease	1	2
Other heart diseases	6	2
Other circulatory diseases	3	3
Influenza	-	-
Pneumonia	2	-
Bronchitis	3	-
Other diseases of respiratory system	-	-
Hyperplasia of Prostate	-	-
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	-
Nephritis and nephrosis	-	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	1	3
Motor vehicle accidents	1	-
All other accidents	-	-
Suicide	-	-
Congenital Malformations	1	-

Food Hygiene

See Public Health Inspector's Report.

No. of prosecutions Nil

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 SECTION 47

No action was taken under this statute.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

Aberdovey, Brynecrug, Towyn and Cwrt

The supply of water to these communities was again satisfactorily maintained throughout the year. Regular sampling proved the quality of water to be most excellent.

Bacteriological Analysis

44 samples from public and private supplies were submitted for analysis, the results of which were as follows:-

SUPPLY	Satisfactory		Unsatisfactory		Total	
	1960	1959	1960	1959	1960	1959
Aberdovey	8	10	-	-	8	10
Abertrinant	9	9	1	1	10	10
Brynecrug	10	11	-	-	10	11
Cwrt and Pennal	10	10	1	-	11	10
Towyn	2	4	-	-	2	4
Private	2	6	1	2	3	8
Total	41	50	3	3	44	53

The figures for 1959 are shown for comparison

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Aberdovey

The discharge of crude sewage at high tide from the wharf storage tanks into the Dovey Estuary still continues and results, at times, in pollution of the beaches. This gives rise to complaint and so the implementing of the Council's proposed new sewage disposal scheme for remedying this nuisance is most anxiously awaited.

Brynecrug

The sewage pumping station and disposal works serving this village has been operating satisfactorily during the year.

Towyn

The new sewerage scheme for this area involving the duplication of certain lengths of the sewers, the construction of storm overflows, new pumping station and new sea outfall was completed and is operating satisfactorily.

Three farms were provided with new drainage and septic tank installations during the year.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The Council's direct labour scheme for the collection and disposal of refuse has functioned quite satisfactorily. Over forty trade premises have been included in the scheme since its inception.

Collections are made twice weekly at Aberdovey and Towynd and once weekly at Brynecrug. Collections at Cwrt have been improved and are now once weekly by contract with the Dolgellau R.D.C.

Every effort has been made to maintain the Council's two refuse depositories in a tidy condition, but the lack of suitable covering material and very large quantities of cardboard and other similar contents in the refuse has made this work most difficult. Tip fires have occasionally occurred but have not given rise to any serious nuisance.

Regular treatments have been carried out to keep the tips free from rat and fly infestations.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The number and nature of visits were as follows:-

	1960
Abattoir	125
Accumulations	4
Bakehouses	14
Cinema	4
Camping Sites	113
Dairies and Milk Supplies	56
Dirty Condition of Premises	8
Disinfestation	21
Drainage and Sewerage	207
Dwelling Houses	514
Factories	29
Food Premises - General	144
Fouling of Water Courses	4
Hill Farming Act	24
Ice-Cream Premises	38
Improvement Grants	139
Infectious Diseases and Disinfection	2
Keeping of Animals	1
Licensed Premises	36
National Assistance Act	3
Nuisances	186
Offensive Odours	15
Petroleum Acts	14
Public Conveniences	84
Refuse Collection and Disposal	172
Rodent Control	49
Schools	14
Shops Act	2
Smoke Nuisances	2
Unsound Foods	34
Water Supplies	65
Miscellaneous Visits	78
Total	<u>2201</u>

The number of notices served and complied with were as shown below -

Statute	Notices not complied with at end of 1959	Notices served during 1960		Notices complied with during 1960	Notices not complied with at end of 1960
		Statutory	Informal		
Public Health Act	4	-	159	154	9
Food & Drugs Act	1	-	3	4	-
Housing Act	13	2	-	7	6
Damage by Pests Act	-	-	3	3	-
Clean Air Act	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	18	2	165	168	15

Factories Act, 1937 to 1959

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health:-

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	6	6	1	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	21	23	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	1	1	-	-
Total	28	30	1	-

2. Defects Found

Particulars	Found	Number of defects		Prosecutions
		Remedied	Referred by H.M. Inspector to H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (S.I.)	3	3	1	-
Total	3	3	1	-

Disinfection

Three premises were disinfected during the year following cases of infectious and other diseases.

Disinfestation

Five premises were treated for insect infestation including ants, beetles and flies.

Anti-fly measures were again carried out on the Aberdovey and Towyn refuse depositories.

Rodent Control

All rodent work at private dwellings was again carried out free of charge, but the cost incurred in treating agricultural and business premises was recovered from the occupiers.

The work of the Rodent Operative during the year is shown below-

Type of property	Inspections	Number infested and treated for		Visits for Treatment	Total Visits
		Rats	Mice		
Local Authority's Properties	22	19	-	59	100
Dwelling houses	213	83	78	408	782
Agricultural Properties	34	10	4	33	81
Business Properties	52	6	-	20	78
Total	321	118	82	520	1041

In addition the Aberdovey and Towyn sewers were twice treated during the year and regular treatments carried out on the Council's two refuse depositories.

Public Conveniences

The eight public conveniences in the district were again well maintained in a clean and tidy condition throughout the year despite their frequent misuse by the public. There is still need for additional toilet facilities in the area and to meet this need the Council proposes providing two new conveniences, one near the Station and one at the southern end of the promenade in Towyn. It was also proposed to build a convenience and shelter at Brynecrug but difficulty has been experienced in obtaining a suitable site.

Camping and Caravan Sites

The number of sites in the district increased to 18 during the year. Conditions generally at these sites were reasonably satisfactory for the greater part of the season. During the period mid-July to Mid-August, however, the sites became inadequate in size and number to provide for the large increase in holiday caravans to the district. As a result a number of unauthorised sites were opened and several of the established ones became overcrowded and warnings had to be issued to the owners. Three site operators persisted in overcrowding after being warned and finally proceedings were taken to abate the overcrowding and comply with the site licence conditions.

Hill Farming and Livestock Rearing Acts

Repairs and improvements to three farm dwellings were effected under the provisions of the above Acts. The following works were carried out:-

Provision of new piped water supply	1
Provision of hot water system	3
Provision of water closet, drainage and septic tank installation	3
Provision of bathroom	3
Repairs and other improvements	3

Improvement Grants

Eleven applications for grant-aid under the provisions of the House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959, for improvements to houses were received and approved during the year. They were all from owner/occupiers. The grants involved amounted in total to £1,325.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Meat and Food Inspection

The table which appears below gives the number of carcasses inspected and particulars of carcasses and parts thereof condemned at the local slaughterhouse:-

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	223	47	3	4169	410	-
Number Inspected	223	47	3	4169	410	-
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis</u>						
Whole condemned	-	-	-	2	-	-
Part or Organ condemned	33	19	-	302	90	-
Percentage of number affected	14.80%	40.43%	-	7.24%	21.95%	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Part or Organ condemned	-	-	-	-	5	-
Percentage of number affected	-	-	-	-	1.22%	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Part or Organ condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted for treatment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

The total number of carcasses examined during the year was 4438.

Weight of Diseased and Unsound Meat and Offal Condemned

	Tons	Cwts	Qrts	lbs
Meat	-	3	1	14
Offal	1	3	3	20
Total	1	7	1	6

All this meat and offal was disposed of for processing and recovery purposes by the owners of the slaughterhouse.

Analysis of Causes of Condemnation

1. Whole Carcasses - Sheep 2 Emaciation and Oedema
2. Part Carcasses and Offal

Disease	CATTLE including Cows						Sheep and Lambs			Pigs							
	Head and Tongue	Lungs	Livers	Part Liver	Spleen	Skirt	Shoulders	Leg	Lungs	Livers	Leg	Head and Tongues	Lungs	Livers	Hearts	Kidneys	Stomach & Intestines
Abscess			5						5	22							
Actinomycosis	6																
Angiona			6														
Bruising											1						
Bacilliary Necrosis			1														
Congestion									12				5				
Cysts		5	2						36	87			5	21		2	
Degeneration										5				1			
Facioliosis			31	70						32							
Milk Spot																	
Malformations							1	1						57			
Parasitic										65							
Pericarditis															4		
Peritonitis					1	1								1			
Pleurisy		2							11				5				
Pneumonia									31				19				
Strongyli									34								
Tuberculosis												5					5
Melanosis									1								
TOTALS	6	7	45	70	1	1	1	1	130	21	1	5	34	80	4	2	5

I am very happy to report that there were no lessions of Tuberculosis found in any cattle or cows slaughtered during this year again. The number of pigs affected with this disease still remains low and showed slight percentage decrease on that of last year, being 1.22 and 1.28 respectively.

There were no cases of cysticercosis during the year.

Slaughterhouse Control and Meat Transport

No applications were received for licences in respect of new private slaughterhouses. Adequate facilities to meet the needs of all the local butchers are provided at the existing slaughterhouse owned by the Towyn Wholesale Meat Co. Ltd.

The general conditions at the slaughterhouse have been well maintained and the standard of hygiene and cleanliness most satisfactory.

All meat was inspected prior to leaving the slaughterhouse and was of very good quality throughout the year.

The transport and handling of all meat has been carried out satisfactorily, every precaution being taken to prevent the soiling and contamination of dressed carcasses and offal.

Other Foods Condemned

The following table gives details of the nature and weight of the foodstuffs found to be unfit for human consumption.

	Cwts	Qrs	lbs
Canned Meat		3	6
" Fruit	2	-	26
" Vegetables	-	3	11
" Milk & Cream	-	-	13
" Fish	-	-	17
" Soups	-	-	4
Cod Fillets	-	3	2
Frozen Ducklings	-	2	8
Cooked Ham	-	1	1
Smoked Bacon	-	1	25
Total	6	1	1

MILK SUPPLY

Registered Milk Distributors	4
Producer-retailers not registered by the Local Authority	9
Retailers of Tuberculin Tested	10
Retailers of Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) Milk	4
Retailers of Pasteurised Milk	4

Thirtyeight samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological examination at the Public Health Laboratory, Aberystwyth, details of the results and tests applied are given below :-

Designation	Summary of Results			Details of Tests			
	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Total	Methylene Blue Test		Phosphatase Test	
				Satis.	Unsatis.	Satis.	Unsatis.
Pasteurised	2	-	2	2	-	2	-
Tuberculin Tested	26	-	26	26	-	-	-
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	10	-	10	10	-	10	-
Total	38	-	38	38	-	12	-

Regular sampling was carried out of all milk supplied to the schools in the district.

Regular inspections were made of dairy premises and much attention paid to milk distribution.

Legal proceedings were instituted against Messrs. Eufenfa Meirion Ltd., Rhydymain, Dolgellau, under the Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959, for not ensuring that bottles used for supplying milk to Towyn Grammar School were thoroughly clean. At the hearing on Friday, 2nd December, 1960, the Magistrates granted the defendants an absolute discharge on payment of costs and advocates fee.

Ice-Cream

There are 27 premises in the district registered for the sale of ice-cream. One application for the transfer of registration was approved. All ice-cream sold in the district is wrapped or pre-packed.

Regular inspections were made of the premises and they were all found to maintain a good standard of hygiene.

No samples taken.

Food Hygiene

There are 113 food premises in the district comprising 8 hotels and licensed premises, 37 guest and boarding houses, 12 cafes and restaurants, 24 grocers (including green-grocers), 2 fish frying restaurants, 6 bakehouses, 6 school canteens, 6 butcher shops and 12 confectioners shops. In addition there are the 27 ice-cream premises previously mentioned in the report although some of these are included in the premises listed above.

The standard of hygiene and cleanliness at these premises was generally found to be quite good and I am pleased to report that several improvements were effected during the year. In particular it was found that a number of shops had installed refrigerated food display cabinets. An increasing number of shop-keepers, too, are displaying their goods in transparent wrapped containers which provide good protection against external contamination. This indicates an improved awareness of the need for good hygiene in the food catering industry.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955

Sampling of food for compositional quality under the above Act is administered by the County Council. Mr. R.T. Edwards, Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures has reported as follows on samples taken in the District during the year.

Article	No. obtained 1960	No. certified as adulterated or not up to standard.	Remarks
Milk (Formal)	9	1	Below standard for fat, solids- not-fat, no added water
Milk (informal)	7	-	
Butter	1	-	
Vinegar	1	-	
Fresh Cream	1	-	
Port Sausage	3	-	
Totals	22	1	

